AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-16. (Previously canceled)

17. (Currently amended) An isolated DNA consisting essentially of a nucleotide ~~sequences~~ sequence encoding a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or SEQ ID NO:4~~, wherein said protein has transaldolase enzymatic activity.

18. (Currently amended) An isolated DNA consisting of a nucleotide ~~sequences~~ sequence encoding a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or SEQ ID NO:4~~, wherein said protein has transaldolase enzymatic activity.

19. (Currently amended) The isolated DNA of claim 17, wherein said DNA has the complete nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 nucleotides 2471 to 3550 ~~or SEQ ID NO:3 nucleotides 1 to 1080~~.

20. (Previously added) The isolated DNA of claim 17, wherein said DNA has the complete nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 nucleotides 2471 to 3550 and degenerate variants thereof encoding a protein with transaldolase enzymatic activity having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) An isolated DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 nucleotides 2471 to 3550~~;~~, and the full complement of SEQ ID NO:1 nucleotides 2471 to 3550~~, SEQ ID NO:3 nucleotides 1 to 1080 and the full complement of SEQ ID NO:3 nucleotides 1 to 1080~~.

23. (Currently amended) An isolated DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:1, the full complement of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3~~;~~, and the full complement of SEQ ID NO:3.

24. (Currently amended) An isolated DNA encoding a protein having transaldolase enzymatic activity with an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to that of SEQ

ID NO:2 ~~or SEQ ID NO:4~~, and wherein said transaldolase enzymatic activity is essentially the same as that of the protein of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or SEQ ID NO:4~~ or the same as that of the protein encoded by pSUZ1 shown in figure 1 and as found in *Escherichia coli* JM109/pSUZ1 deposited under accession number DSM 13263.

25. (Currently amended) An isolated DNA encoding a protein having transaldolase enzymatic activity with an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to that of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or SEQ ID NO:4~~, and wherein said transaldolase enzymatic activity is essentially the same as that of the protein of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or SEQ ID NO:4~~ or the same as that of the protein encoded by pSUZ1 shown in figure 1 and as found in *Escherichia coli* JM109/pSUZ1 deposited under accession number DSM 13263.

26. (Currently amended) An isolated DNA encoding a protein having transaldolase enzymatic activity with an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to that of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or SEQ ID NO:4~~, and wherein said transaldolase enzymatic activity is essentially the same as that of the protein of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or SEQ ID NO:4~~ or the same as that of the protein encoded by pSUZ1 shown in figure 1 and as found in *Escherichia coli* JM109/pSUZ1 deposited under accession number DSM 13263.

27. (Currently amended) A vector comprising the <u>isolated</u> DNA of any one of claims ~~17-26~~ <u>17-20, 22-26</u>.

28. (Currently amended) A host cell comprising the isolated DNA of any one of claims ~~17-26~~ <u>17-20 and 22-26</u>.

29. (Previously added) A bacterium transformed with the vector of claim 27.

30. (Currently amended) A vector for expressing the transaldolase protein of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* comprising a promoter and a coding sequence, wherein said coding sequence consists of the <u>isolated</u> DNA of any one of claims ~~17-26~~ <u>17-20, 22-26</u>.

31 (Previously canceled)

32. (Previously added) A bacterium transformed with the vector of claim 30.

61

33. (Previously amended) The bacterium of claim 32 wherein said bacterium is *Escherichia coli* JM109/pSUZ1 deposited under accession number DSM 13263.